

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:
 - presenting a user interface to access records in a database;
 - associating a record key with a database key in response to a record access, the record key comprising a key used to identify the record, and the database key comprising a key used to track the record;
 - modifying the record key based on input received via the user interface;
 - associating the modified record key with the database key; and
 - providing access to the record through the user interface using the database key associated with the modified record key to identify the record in the database.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the database key is a unique value based on information independent of both the content and organization of a record in a database.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the record includes the associated database key when stored in memory at runtime, the method further comprising removing the database key from the record before storing the record in the database.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the record access comprises the generation of a record.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein providing access comprises saving the record corresponding to the modified record key to the database.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the record key comprises an object identifier portion and an object type portion, and modifying the record key comprises copying the record in the database.
7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - associating a second type of record key with the record in the database, the second type of record key comprising a key used to identify and made part of the record; and

providing access to the record through the user interface using the second type of record key.

8. A database system comprising:

- a database stored on a storage device;
- a program that identifies a record by a database key; and
- a database key association layer operable to generate the database key and associate the database key with a record key in response to a record access by the program, wherein the record key comprises a key usable to identify the record in the database.

9. The database system of claim 8, wherein the record includes the associated database key when stored in memory at runtime and the record excludes the database key when stored in the database.

10. The database system of claim 8, wherein the database key is based upon a value independent of both the content and organization of a record in a database.

11. The database system of claim 10, wherein the database key association layer being operable to generate a second type of database key usable to identify the record in the database, wherein the second database key is based upon the record content and organization of the record in a database.

12. The database system of claim 8, wherein the record access comprises generation of the record.

13. A system comprising:

- means for generating a first mapping usable to identify a record in a database by reference to a first type of database key, wherein the first type of database key has a corresponding record in the database and the first type of database key being a unique value based on information independent of both the content and organization of a record in a database.

14. The system of claim 13, further comprising:

means for generating a second mapping usable to identify records in the database by reference to a second type of database key, where each second type of database key corresponds to a record in the database and the second type of database key is a unique value.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein the record identified by the first mapping includes the first type of database key when stored in memory at runtime, the system further comprising:

means for removing the first type of database key from the record identified by the first mapping before storing the record in the database.

16. An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions operable to cause one or more machines to perform operations comprising:

presenting a user interface to access records in a database;

associating a record key with a database key in response to a record access, the record key comprising a key used to identify the record, and the database key comprising a key used to track the record;

modifying the record key based on input received via the user interface;

associating the modified record key with the database key; and

providing access to the record through the user interface using the database key associated with the modified record key to identify the record in the database.

17. The article of claim 16, wherein the database key is a unique value based on information independent of both content and organization of a record in a database.

18. The article of claim 16, wherein the record access comprises generation of a record.

19. The article of claim 16, wherein the record key comprises an object identifier portion and an object type portion, and modifying the record key comprises copying the record in the database.

20. The article of claim 16, wherein the operation further comprise:

associating a second type of record key with the record in the database, the second type of record key comprising a key used to identify and made part of the record; and providing access to the record through the user interface using the second type of record key.